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## Work and Workers.

MR. IRWIN HOCH DE LONG, a graduate student in Semitics in the University of Chicago, has been appointed to the Thayer Memorial Fellowship in the American School for Oriental Study and Research in Palestine. This fellowship is awarded on the basis of an examination, and the appointment is for the period of one year.

REV. JOHN H. KERR, D.D., professor of Greek exegesis and New Testament literature in the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at San Francisco, has been chosen editorial secretary of the American Tract Society, to succeed Rev. William Rand, D.D., who at the age of eighty-six is closing a service of fifty-four years at this post.

REV. LOUIS B. CRANE, thirty-three years of age, a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary in 1891, and pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church at Buffalo, N. Y., has been elected professor of New Testament literature and exegesis at the Chicago Theological Seminary, and will assume his duties at the opening of the year next autumn. This is the chair left vacant a year ago by the resignation of Professor George H. Gilbert, Ph.D., D.D.

THE Alfred Theological Seminary (Seventh-Day Baptist), at Alfred, N. Y., has arranged to conduct the study of non-resident students in the English Bible by means of correspondence courses. For this purpose the courses of the American Institute of Sacred Literature have been adopted and are now in use, covering "The Life of Christ," "The Founding of the Christian Church," "The Foreshadowings of the Christ," and "The Work of the Old Testament Sages."

THE third volume of the Cheyne and Black *Encyclopædia Biblica* has just appeared, containing the articles L to P. The fourth volume of the Hastings *Dictionary of the Bible*, completing the work, is to be ready in a short time. These two great works are of supreme importance in the progress of biblical knowledge, and will occupy a prominent place in the discussions of the next twenty years. The usefulness of the two works is not lessened by their simultaneous appearance, for they represent different schools of criticism; the Hastings dictionary represents a moderate conservatism, while the Cheyne dictionary stands in the forefront of advanced historical investigation.

THE First Baptist Church of Palo Alto, Calif., Rev. Robert Whitaker, pastor, is experimenting with a Sunday morning service which combines church and Sunday school into what is called a "church Bible school." The service occupies an hour and a quarter; the first half-hour is devotional; the remainder of the time is given to the study of the Bible. The pastor conducts the senior and adult departments, these forming his congregation in the main audience room, and the lesson is given like a sermon from the pulpit. Four worthy objects are held to be accomplished by this new arrangement: the number of Sunday services for pastor and people is reduced, the children and adults worship together, the Sunday-school work is improved in quality, and the preaching from the pulpit is made more useful, attractive, and effective.

A SPECIAL interest attaches to an address which President Roosevelt made just before he became chief executive by the assassination of President McKinley. The address was delivered before the Long Island Bible Society, and in the course of it he expressed his conception of the value of the Bible. Copies of this address, to the number of 80,000 in English and 10,000 in Spanish, have been circulated during the past year, by President Roosevelt's permission, through the American Bible Society, of New York. Among other things President Roosevelt said:

Every thinking man, when he thinks, realizes what a very large number of people tend to forget that the teachings of the Bible are so interwoven and entwined with our whole civic and social life that it would be literally—I do not mean figuratively, I mean literally—impossible for us to figure to ourselves what that life would be if these teachings were removed. We would lose almost all the standards by which we now judge both public and private morals; all the standards toward which we, with more or less of resolution, strive to raise ourselves. Almost every man who has by his life-work added to the sum of human achievement of which the race is proud, of which our people are proud, almost every such man has based his life-work largely upon the teachings of the Bible. Sometimes it has been done unconsciously, more often consciously; and among the very greatest men a disproportionately large number have been diligent and close students of the Bible at first hand. . . . If we read the Bible aright, we read a book which teaches us to go forth and do the work of the Lord; to do the work of the Lord in the world as we find it; to try to make things better in this world, even if only a little better, because we have lived in it. That kind of work can be done only by the man who is neither a weakling nor a coward; by the man who in the fullest sense of the word is a true Christian, like Great Heart, Bunyan's hero. We plead for a closer and wider and deeper study of the Bible, so

that our people may be, in fact as well as in theory, "doers of the word and not hearers only."

ANNOUNCEMENT is made by Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons of a new series, interesting to Bible students, to be brought out under the general editorship of Professors Kent and Sanders. It is to be called the "Library of Ancient Inscriptions," the volumes of which are to be prepared by leading scholars in America, England, and Germany. Six volumes are now promised: (1) *History of the Discovery and Decipherment of the Ancient Inscriptions*, by Professor C. F. Kent, Ph.D., of Yale University; (2) *Old and New Babylonian Historical Inscriptions*, by Professor Christopher Johnson, Ph.D., of Johns Hopkins University; (3) *Assyrian Historical Inscriptions*, by Professor Morris Jastrow, Jr., Ph.D., of the University of Pennsylvania; (4) *Inscriptions of Palestine, Syria and Arabia*, by Professor C. C. Torrey, Ph.D., of Yale University; (5) *Babylonian and Assyrian Epics, Penitential Psalms, Proverbs and Religious Texts*, by Professor Friedrich Delitzsch, Ph.D., of Berlin University; (6) *Egyptian Religions, Magical, Medical and Scientific Texts, Legal and Business Documents*, by Francis Llewellyn Griffith, M.A., F.S.A., superintendent of the Archaeological Survey of the Egyptian Exploration Fund. Three more volumes are indicated, but the authors are not yet named: *Egyptian Historical and Biographical Inscriptions*; *Babylonian and Assyrian Letters, Contracts and Laws*; *Egyptian Tales, Proverbs, Poems and Belles Lettres*. The purpose of this great work is to meet the demand for a thoroughly scholarly, and at the same time popular, English translation and interpretation of the monumental literature which is now universally recognized as fundamental to all study of antiquity. A careful selection is to be made of all important inscriptions from Babylonia, Assyria, Syria, Arabia, and Egypt, pertaining to the study of history, literature, social science, and religion. Historical maps, chronological tables, and indices will be furnished with each volume.

AN interesting step has been taken by the papal curia which concerns the study of the Bible. The influence of the progress made in the knowledge of the Bible has affected the Roman Catholic church in many ways, and the pope has been led to formulate a plan for determining the relation of this Bible movement to the Catholic church. The Pontifical Commission has been appointed to consider questions of biblical criticism in their bearing upon Roman Catholic Christianity. The commission is composed as follows: president, Cardinal Parocchi; assessors, Cardinals Segna and Vives y Tuto;

secretary and consultor, Father David Fleming, head of the Order of Friars Minor; consultors, Professor Van Hoonacker, of Louvain; Professor Grannan, Washington University; Professor Fracassini, of Perugia; Professor Jorió, of Palencia; the very Rev. Esser, O. P., secretary of the Congregation of the Index; Professor Vigouroux, of Paris; Father de Hummelauer, S. J.; Professor Gismondi, S. J., of the Gregorian University in Rome; Dom Ambrose Amelli, prior of Monte Cassino; Dr. R. F. Clarke; and Dr. D. A. Poels, of Ruremonde. The scope of the investigation is thus stated: "To ascertain the limits of the freedom which is allowed to the Catholic exegete in the biblical questions of the day; to point out definitely conclusions that must be maintained in the interests of orthodoxy, others that must be rejected as incompatible with, or dangerous to, divine faith; as well as the debatable ground between the two where each one is free to hold his own view." The precise topics which will be investigated have not been made public, and will not be until the report of the commission is presented. It seems obvious that the result which will be reached by this commission will be to determine what methods of investigation may be used by Roman Catholic scholars and what critical conclusions concerning the Bible may be permitted in the Roman Catholic church. There are few members of the commission who can be considered biblical scholars in the modern sense of the term, and it is unlikely that the questions will be treated from a historical point of view; rather, the finding of the commission will be an ecclesiastical pronouncement upon theological grounds. There is no reason, therefore, to expect that any advance in the Roman Catholic church will actually be made by this arrangement, and it is not likely that the commission will render its report for years. In fact, it is hinted by a correspondent from Rome that the intent of the step is to provide a means of referring questions of biblical criticism, and the attitude of the Roman Catholic church toward them, to a commission which will postpone indefinitely a pronouncement. This would at the same time relieve the responsibility of the hierarchy, and produce a soothing effect upon the Roman Catholic public which is restive under the advance of biblical scholarship, even within the church itself.